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**U.S. BRINGS 36-COUNT INDICTMENT CHARGING PEEKSKILL GROUP  
WITH DRUG DISTRIBUTION AND A SERIES OF VIOLENT CRIMES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in New York, and EUGENE S. TUMOLO, the Chief of Police of the City of Peekskill, New York, announced today the unsealing of a 36-count superseding Indictment charging five members of a violent drug organization with, among other things, racketeering, kidnapping, murder, attempted murder, and drug charges.

The superseding indictment charges that KHALID BARNES, a/k/a "Big Homie," a/k/a "Lid," DAWUD BARNES, a/k/a "Wop," TUERE BARNES, a/k/a "Rey," a/k/a "Mark," YUSUF BARNES, a/k/a "Simie," and JAHMAR SMITH, a/k/a "Studder" worked together as part of an organization (the "Barnes Brothers Organization") that allegedly distributed crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana in and around Peekskill, New York, and was allegedly involved in a kidnapping, two murders, and multiple attempted murders. These five defendants are already in custody. A sixth defendant, ANTHONY PAULINO, a/k/a "Toasty," is charged in a single drug conspiracy count and remains at large. The other defendants named in the earlier indictment have all pleaded guilty to narcotics-related charges.

The superseding Indictment charges that from January 1995 to the present, the Barnes Brothers Organization was a racketeering enterprise involved in distribution of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana, and that members of the organization are responsible for the February 2004 murders of two drug dealers in connection with a rip-off of three kilograms of cocaine; a kidnapping and attempted murder in November 2003; and at least three additional attempted murders. In March 2004, when the defendants were initially arrested, agents seized hundreds of grams of crack and powder cocaine as well as numerous firearms and ammunition. The initial arrests in March 2004, as well as the expanded charges in the superseding Indictment, are the result of a lengthy wiretap investigation and close coordination among the DEA, the Peekskill Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

If convicted, the defendants face maximum sentences of life in prison. In addition, if convicted, KHALID BARNES faces the possibility of a death sentence for the February 2004 murders. The defendants will be presented in federal court in White Plains, 300 Quarropas Street, 4th Floor, on April 11, 2006.

Mr. GARCIA said, "The continuing investigation into the Barnes Brothers Organization ensures that they will face justice for numerous additional acts of violence in their community. Cooperation among local and federal agencies made the expansion of this case possible."

Mr. GILBRIDE added, "This organization allegedly exemplified how drug distribution rings violently conduct their business. Their goal was to make money from poisoning our communities - be it by providing toxins to our youth or by committing murder to solidify their hold on their customers."

Chief TUMOLO stated, "The people of Peekskill are very grateful for the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office and the DEA in investigating and prosecuting these defendants. We look forward to continuing to work with the federal authorities to rid our community of violence and drugs."

Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GILBRIDE, and Chief TUMOLO praised the collective efforts of the DEA and the Peekskill Police Department, and said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOHN HILLEBRECHT and DAVID HARBACH are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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